

REMARKS

Claims 2-10, 12-21 and 23-27 are pending in the present application. Claims 7, 8, 9 and 23 are in independent form. Claim 28 is cancelled. In view of the above amendments and following remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

I. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication, on page 6, that claims 2-10, 12-21 and 23-27 are allowed.

II. CITED ART REJECTION

Claim 28 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Mertens et al. (hereinafter "Mertens"), International Publication No. WO 00/53644, in view of Nakashima et al. (hereinafter "Nakashima"), U.S. Publication No. 2004/0106745 A1.

Claim 28 is cancelled. Thus, the §103(a) rejection is rendered moot.

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CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above, reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of pending claims 2-10, 12-21 and 23-27 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. §1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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